

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 CPR-01 PM-04 SS-15 NSC-05
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 /055 W
-----106542 090252Z /66
R 081422Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9607
COMDT COGARD WASHDC
USCGC JARVIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9834

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, UR, US
SUBJECT: USCGC JARVIS VISIT

1. AT JULY 4 RECEPTION DURING CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER SOVIET MERCHANT MARINE GUZHENKO AND DEPUTY OF MFA'S USA DIVISION KOMPLEKTOV, POLITICAL COUNSELOR RAISED SUBJECT OF RECENT VISIT BY USCGC JARVIS TO NAKHODKA. GUZHENKO STRESSED HIS EFFORTS TO ENSURE FRIENDLY RECEPTION OF JARVIS. KOMPLEKTOV REMARKED THAT HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT JARVIS HAD FLOWN A NAVAL FLAG (VOYENNIY MORSKOY FLAG) AND STATED THAT THIS WAS CONTRADICTORY TO ANNOUNCED NATURE OF VISIT. KOMPLEKTOV POINTEDLY OBSERVED THAT WE SHOULD BE WELL AWARE THAT PRODECURES FOR HANDLING VISITS BY "NAVAL AND NON-NAVAL" VESSELS WERE DIFFERENT.

2. DURING A SUBSEQUENT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH KOMPLEKTOV THE SUBJECT AROSE ONCE AGAIN. THIS TIME HIS REMARKS INDICATED THAT A REPORT OF THE VISIT TO MFA FROM THE SOVIET FAR EAST HAD INCLUDED SUCH INFORMATION.

3. COMMENT: THIS MAY BE A SIMPLE MISUNDERSTANDING BY THE SOVIETS IN THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS ONLY
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ONE FLAG, THE NATIONAL COLORS, WHERE THE SOVIETS AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE DISTINCTIVE NAVAL ENSIGNS AND MERCHANT FLAGS. ALTERNATIVELY, THE FLYING OF THE UNION JACK MAY BE THE CAUSE OF THEIR MISUNDERSTANDING. IN EITHER CASE, CLARIFICATION IS REQUIRED AS TO EXACTLY WHAT OFFICIAL FLAGS JARVIS FLEW DURING VISIT BOTH WHILE MOORED AND UNDERWAY. THE SOVIETS MAY INTEND TO CON-

STRUE JARVIS VISIT IN A NAVAL CONTEXT AS A RECIPROCAL
BARB FOR THE EMBASSY'S PROTEST OF SOVIET REFUSAL TO
REGISTER TRAVEL OF EMBOFFS TO NAKHODKA TO ATTEND VISIT.

4. REQUEST JARVIS FORWARD ALL NECESSARY INFORMA-
TION WITH ANY PERTINENT SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
FLAGS. EMBASSY INTENDS TO RESPOND OFFICIALLY TO
KOMPLEKTOV'S ALLEGATIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIPS, VISITS, MILITARY VISITS, JARVIS USCGC
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW09834
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770244-0255
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770778/aaaacpma.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a9b48a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1922537
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USCGC JARVIS VISIT
TAGS: EFIS, UR, US
To: STATE CG
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a9b48a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009